

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

SECTION 2.1 433

Date January 19, 1933

Subject (in full) Letter from the Shanghai Public Safety Bureau re: Mrs Raissa Korkina-Knight

Made by D. S. Prokofiev

Forwarded by Old Interest.

With reference to the letter dated January 12, 1933 from the Shanghai Public Safety Bureau on the subject of Mrs Raissa Korkina-Knight who arrived in Shanghai from Venice on January 3, 1933 by the s.s. "Conto Verde", and who was suspected by the Chinese Authorities "of being concerned in some political or irregular ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ movements", enquiries show that the above suspicion was based solely on written statements made to the officers of the Passport Examination Bureau by two Chinese passengers who had arrived in Shanghai by the same vessel.

They stated that Mrs Korkina-Knight had no Chinese visa when embarking on the s.s. "Conto Verde" at Venice; that while en-route to Shanghai she made an unsuccessful application for a visa at the Chinese Consulate in Singapore and that she sent a cable from Singapore addressed: "Paris - Tardieu". Thinking that the only person in Paris to whom a telegram can be addressed in this way, was Tardieu, the former French Prime Minister, the informants came to the conclusion that Mrs Korkina-Knight must be an important person and, possibly, was engaged in some political activity. Further they noticed that she was very nervous about the impending trouble with the Chinese authorities in Shanghai over the question of visa <sup>that</sup> and she endeavoured, by flirting with the ship officers, to secure their assistance in this respect. The fact that Mrs Korkina-Knight seemed to be a fluent speaker of several foreign languages was also not overlooked by the informants.

On the passenger list Mrs Korkina-Knight's nationality was stated as French and her address in Shanghai was given as "C/o Leonard, 35 Verdun Terrace 69 Route Mayen". On the passport declaration form, however, she stated that she was a Russian and gave as reference the name of her sister, "Re E. Widler, 44 Rue de la

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

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Station, \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Subject (in full) \_\_\_\_\_

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Made by \_\_\_\_\_ Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

*I know  
Mr. Powell  
and he is  
in every  
thing  
possible?  
JH*

bling Well Road. She produced passport No 635, issued by the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in Shanghai on September 1, 1929. As she had no Chinese visa she was requested to find two persons in Shanghai who would furnish a written guarantee as to her character etc., pending which her luggage was detained at the customs sheds. The guarantee requested was furnished by Mr. Powell, British, of the Cardine Engineering Corporation, and by Mr and Mrs Emile Widler, Swiss, 1147 Bubling Well Road, the signatures of the guarantors being certified by their respective consuls. Mrs Korkina-Knight was then allowed to take her luggage. The regulations governing the examination of passports having been complied with, the Chinese authorities seem to have nothing against Mrs Korkina-Knight. The attached letter was sent to the Shanghai Municipal Police for information prior to the settlement of the above incident.

Interviewed by the undersigned on January 15, Mrs Korkina-Knight stated that she had arrived here from Paris. Shortly before her departure she applied at the Chinese Consulate in that city for a passport visa to enable her to proceed to Shanghai, but was told that it would take about four months to await a reply from Nanking and that, in the case of application by telegraph, it would take at least two weeks and the expenses would be about Fr. 600.00. As Mrs Korkina-Knight neither wished to wait nor was inclined to pay the above sum, she decided to proceed to Shanghai without a visa, thinking that, as a former resident of Shanghai, she would have no difficulty in obtaining permission to land here. Further she stated that while on board the s.s. "Conto Verde" she openly expressed her poor opinion of the Chinese consular officials in Paris and the Chinese race in general. She thinks, therefore, that this fact might have been reported to the Passport Inspectors in

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Forwarded by \_\_\_\_\_

Shanghai by some Chinese fellow-passengers. She also mentioned that she had a French return visa and that she intended to proceed to France in the near future to join her fiancé.

Reference to the registration book of the Russian Emigrants Committee, No 6-A Hongkong Road, shows that Raissa Sofronovna Korkina, Russian, born February 28, 1905, at Vladivostok, arrived here from Vladivostok in 1911. On January 12, 1923 she was married to an American named Allen Knight. They left for San Francisco in 1923. In August 1927 Mrs Korkina-Knight returned from the United States and when registering with the above mentioned body stated that she had been divorced in San Francisco on September 9, 1927.

Following her arrival here Mrs Korkina-Knight put up at the Palace Hotel but after a few days removed to No 1147 Bubbling Well Road, her present address.

Mr. Emil Widler, her brother-in-law and brother of the notorious Elly Widler, conducts a business at the above address under the name of "China Produce Co", Import & Export; Silks, Lingerie, Linen and Antiques. A shop known as "The Fine Arts", of which Mrs Agnes Widler is the manageress and which deals in similar goods, is also situated at the same address (Flat No 1).

Apart from the above nothing is known to this office regarding Mrs Korkin-Knight and her relatives.

*G. Piskofiev*

D.S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

*Ray. Please acknowledge letter from Special Branch saying that subject has been noted. JH*

*19-11-28*

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.  
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE.

Translation of Letter from Shanghai Public Safety Bureau.

No. 28

January 12, 1933.

Major Gerrard,  
Commissioner of Police,  
S. M. P.

Sir,

On the 3rd inst., a Russian female named Raissa Kortina Knight arrived at this Port from Venice per s.s. "Conte Verde". She is in possession of an improper passport and is now living with her sister at 1147 Bubbling Well Road. As she is suspected of being concerned in some political or irregular movements, she will be told to find a reliable guarantor and come to us to be registered.

The Italian Mail Steamship Company will be notified to the effect that passengers, who are not in possession of bona-fide passports, are not allowed to travel on their ships to come to China.

Apart from notifying the French Police, you are informed as above.

Attached are two photos of this woman.

Wen Hung En

Chief of Public Safety Bureau  
Shanghai.

*Wen Hung En*

D. 4415.

CHINESE MUNICIPAL TOLLS

S. B. REGISTRY

D. 4415

D. 23/1 133

January

20,

33.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter  
No. 23 of January 12 regarding Raissa Kortina Knight,  
a Russian female, the contents of which have been  
noted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. W. Giffard

Commissioner of Police.

General Tan Heng-shan,

Chief of the Public Safety Bureau,

Greater Shanghai Municipality.

送達者  
貴局奉月十日  
大正九年一月  
Kortina Knight  
已達出納  
董學奇  
上海  
教務處